

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Room 1131, Resources Building

Announcements

None

SWRCB Activities (P. Fernandez)

1) Water Transfer Petitions

From December 2009 through June 2010, the State Water Board received ten petitions for temporary change to authorize the temporary (one year or less) transfer of water, four of which have since been withdrawn. The issued notices are available for viewing online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

DWR/Westlands Swap: ORDER ISSUED WR 2010-0017-DWR 5/5/2010

DWR requests a change in place of use to deliver 10,000 af of SWP water intended for Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Empire West Side Irrigation District to Westlands Water District.

South Sutter Water District proposes to transfer up to 10,000 af of water to eight State Water Contractors. Water will be released from Camp Far West Reservoir, however, the water will be made available through increased groundwater pumping.

Garden Highway Mutual Water Company proposes to transfer up to 5,802 af of water to eight State Water Contractors. Water will be made available through increased groundwater pumping.

Tule Basin Farms proposes to transfer up to 3,520 af of water to eight State Water Contractors. Water will be made available through increased groundwater pumping.

City of Sacramento/Sacramento Suburban Water District propose to transfer up to 4,377 af of water to eight State Water Contractors. Water will be made available through groundwater substitution.

Merced Irrigation District proposes to transfer up to 15,000 af of water to four State Water Contractors. Transfer total consists of stored water.

2) Delta Outflow Criteria

We are currently developing a draft criteria/report to send out for public comment in July for a potential August approval by the Board and September transmittal to the Delta Stewardship Council.

For more information go to the water rights website.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/

3) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

a) DWR is providing us with CALSIM runs using the model they have developed for BDCP analysis, which includes current level of development under operating constraints contained in the most recent USFWS and NMFS biological opinions for salmon and smelt respectively. The runs are looking at various options for Sacramento and San Joaquin River flow, and net Delta outflow in support of our development of Delta outflow recommendations.

b) DWR is developing a plan to address our request for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta. The request was made as a follow-up to the recent CDO adopted by the Board in January (WR 2010-0002).

c) DWR is providing modeling runs to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers down there (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This is being done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we requested as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008.

d) USBR is working on a scope of work to provide us with some CALSIM modeling that would evaluate possible alternative flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. Like item b) above this modeling support was requested as part of WR 2010-0002. The scope of work is still in development with USBR and work has not started.

4) New Water Diversion Reporting Requirements

The State Water Board issued a statewide press release on May 24, 2010 regarding new water diversion reporting requirements. Diverters of surface water must submit to the State Water Board Statements of Water Diversion and Use by July 1, 2010 or face a fine of \$1,000 or more. The State Water Board has received between 200 and 300 statements in the past month.

Fisheries Status

Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon (J. Stuart, NMFS) – Traps on Mill and Deer Creek were mostly read between June 8 and June 15 and had 21 young of year Chinook salmon, no spring Chinook yearlings and 17 steelhead. Flows are high and water temperatures are low. At Knights Landing, the catch has slowed considerably the last few days. Water temperatures are high, approx. 72 degrees, which usually signals the end of migration. For the Mossdale Kodiak trawl last week, there were 4 non-clipped Chinook and no steelhead. At CVP and SWP export facilities last week, there were no winter-run size and no spring-run salmon collected. The total for the year is 589 at the CVP and 1072 at the SWP for winter-run size fish, 2844 at the CVP and 3234 at the SWP for spring run fish and 624 at the CVP and 401 at the SWP for steelhead. There have been no green sturgeon at the CVP or SWP for this year.

Delta smelt (L. Bartoo, USFWS) – The Smelt Work Group met Monday of this week and determined that a OMR flow target of no more negative than -5000 cfs is protective per USFWS' Biological Opinion. The seasonal take so far is 29 fish, well below the incidental take limit. One more meeting of the SWG is scheduled before taking a summer break.

Work Group Updates

DAT – Nothing to report.

DOSS - The last DOSS meeting until next September was held yesterday. Items that will continue to be discussed is the development of the 6 year acoustic tag program specified in NMFS' Biological Opinion and EBMUD proposal for a fall pulse flow.

VAMP (D. Westcot) – The target Vernalis flow for VAMP in 2010 of 4450 cfs was exceeded due to flood control releases still being made on the Tuolumne and Merced rivers. The combined export target of 1500 cfs combined was met for the entire 30 day period.

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

CVP - Keswick is at 11,00 cfs. Folsom is at 4500 cfs, Goodwin is at 250 cfs, Jones Pumping Plant is at 3400 cfs and the Federal share of San Luis is 639 TAF.

SWP - Oroville at 1,000 cfs, Clifton Court is at 3,000 cfs and the State share of San Luis is 640 TAF.

Other – OMR daily flows are about -6,000 cfs and the 14 day running average OMR is approx. -4,800 cfs. The Delta Outflow requirement (monthly average) for July is 6,500 cfs.

Next meetings – The group decided to cancel CALFED Ops meetings for July and August. The next meeting will be in September.